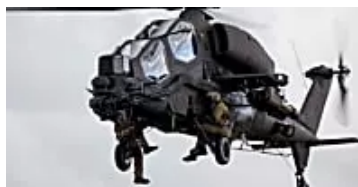




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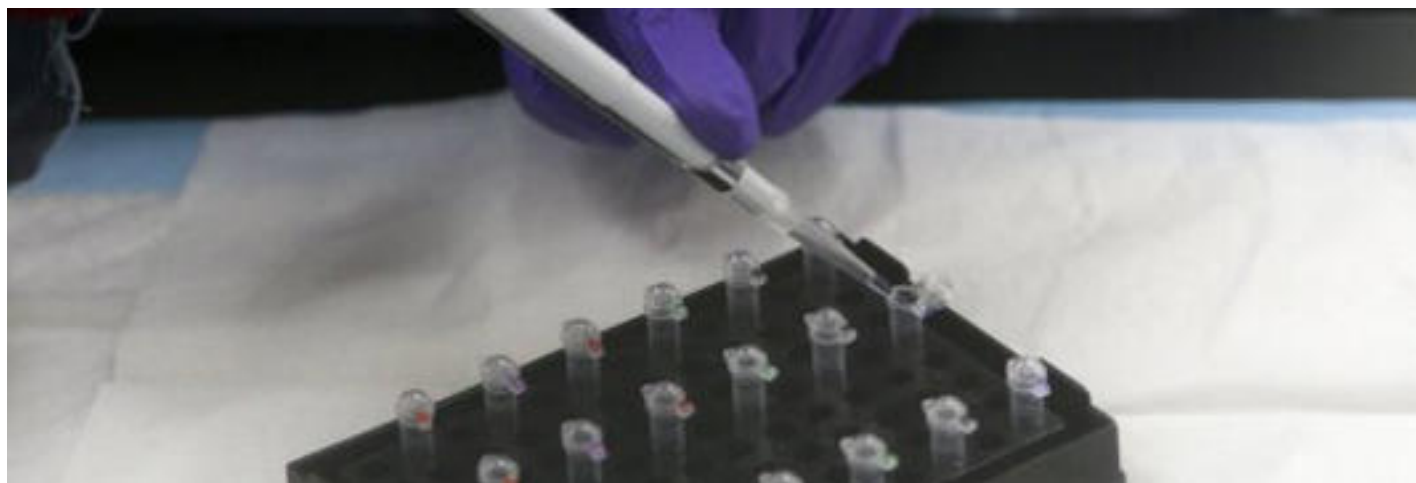
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How Russia could use your aunt's genealogy hobby to kill you

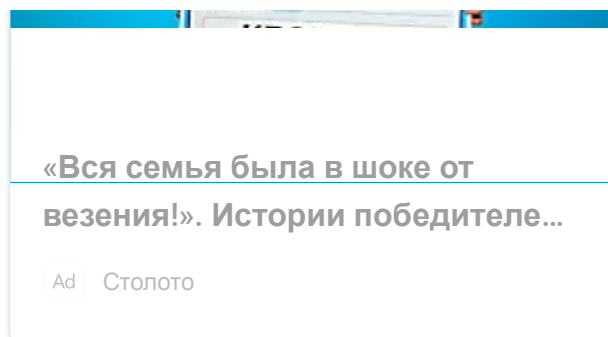
Your aunt's genealogy hobby could help [China](#) or [Russia](#) design a [biological weapon](#) to kill your family.

That risk alarms policymakers and officials in the United States, even if it's a remote prospect for most people. The emergence of such technology could allow rogue regimes to develop exquisite [assassination programs](#) with more than the usual impunity.



"There are now weapons under development, and developed, that are designed to target specific people," Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO), a member of the committees that oversee the Pentag

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Aspen Security Forum in Aspen, Colorado. "That's what this is, where you can actually take someone's DNA, you know, their medical profile, and you can target a biological weapon that will kill that person or take them off the battlefield or make them inoperable."

The most sophisticated U.S. rivals could use such methods to open a new front against the American population, another senior lawmaker added, through the targeting of [food supplies](#) on a vast scale.

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE SIGN GRAIN EXPORTS DEAL THAT COULD AVERT GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS

"If we look at food security and what can our adversaries do with biological weapons that are directed at our animal agriculture, at our agricultural sector ... highly pathogenic avian influenza, African swine fever," said Sen. [Joni Ernst](#) (R-IA), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "All of these things have circulated around the globe, but if targeted by an adversary, we know that it brings about food insecurity. Food insecurity drives a lot of other insecurities around the globe."

The lawmakers outlined those risks to elaborate on a warning aired more obliquely by Army Gen. Richard Clarke, the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command.

"Russia is willing to use those against political opponents. They're willing to use them on their own soil, but then to go in on the soil of a NATO ally in the UK and use those ... and as we go into the future, we have to be prepared for that eventualities. And I don't think we talk about it as much as we should and look for methods to continue to combat."

That was a reference to Russia's use of a [nerve agent](#) in the attempted assassination of former double agent Sergei Skripal, who was found unconscious along with his niece on a bench in southeast England. British officials said that they were poisoned with an "extremely sophisticated" chemical weapon. The Skripals survived the attack, but a British woman named Dawn Sturgess [died](#) after unwitting exposure to the poison, which had been disguised in a discarded perfume bottle.

Anxiety about the American vulnerability to advanced chemical or biological weapons has festered within the U.S. intelligence community in recent years, while other domestic policy agencies have evinced less awareness of the potential threat. Sen. Marco Rubio

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genomic data of American citizens” by partnering with a laboratory test company linked to the Chinese Communist regime. An HHS watchdog confirmed last year that the public health bureaucracy had not taken such exotic national security risks into account when establishing and operating their programs.

For Crow, the more salient risk comes from the cavalier attitude with which private citizens share their personal information — including their DNA.

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“People will very rapidly spit into a cup and send it to 23andMe and get really interesting data about their background — and guess what? Their DNA is now owned by a private company,” he said. “So we have to have an open and public discussion ... about what does the protection of healthcare information, DNA information, and your data look like? Because that data is actually going to be procured and collected by our adversaries for the development of these systems.”

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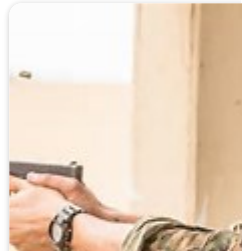


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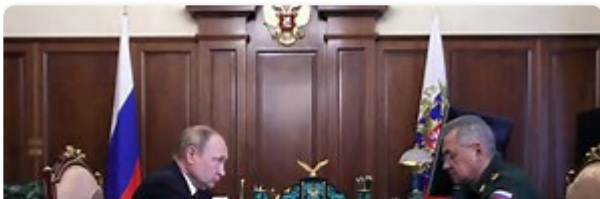
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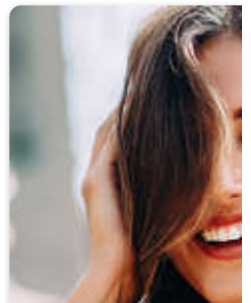
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David Axe, Forbes Staff - Yesterday 5:00 PM



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The Russian air force lost another one of its best fighter planes over Ukraine on Tuesday. The shoot-down of what appears to be a Sukhoi Su-35 could be the result of a skillful, and lucky, long-range shot by a Ukrainian air-defense battery.

It could *also* indicate that Ukrainian forces are closer than many analysts assume to Kherson, a southern port city that's been under Russian control since early in Russia's wider war on Ukraine—and which is the main focus of Ukraine's so-far modest southern counteroffensive.

The Sukhoi was patrolling over Nova Kakhovka, 40 miles east of Russian-occupied Kherson on the southern bank of the Dnipro River in southern Ukraine when it exploded on Tuesday evening.

Videos that circulated on social media depict the jet tumbling to the ground—and also depict the pilot, having ejected, slowly descending under his parachute.

It was the [36th fighter](#) the Russian air force had lost over Ukraine, and the second or third Su-35, which is the latest single-seat version of the classic Su-27.

The Ukrainian air force quickly took credit for the kill. "Excellent work of the anti-aircraft missile forces," the air force [tweeted](#). "Ground air-defense of Ukraine 'landed' another fighter jet."

By "ground air-defense," the Ukrainian air force almost certainly is referring

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Ukrainian army inherited from the Soviet Union on the latter's dissolution in 1991.

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